

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 20 are pending in this application; Claim 2 has been amended in order to better express the Applicant's invention, expedite the conclusion of this examination and thereby assist the Examiner in the prompt completion of the compact prosecution. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 5 through 20 are newly added to alternatively define the Applicant's invention. No new matter has been added and no new search is required.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP1-314818 to Kaneko et al., Japanese Patent Publication No. JP2-25639 to Watanabe, Japanese Patent Publication No. JP1-292793, or Japanese Patent Publication No. JP1-189423 to Iwabuchi and further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,239,009 to Cunningham entitled *Portable Turntable For Microwave Oven* or U.S. Patent No. 4,694,132 to Liu entitled *Microwave Oven Turntable With Removable Table Top*. Claim 1 is canceled.

Claim 4 has been allowed. The Examiner's allowance of this claim is appreciated.

Claims 2 through 3 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and

any intervening claims. The indication of the allowability of these claims is appreciated. Claim 2 has been amended to be an independent form and include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 3 depends from the amended claim 2. Thus, claims 2 through 5 are allowable.

Claims 5 through 20 are newly added. Claim 5 defines *inter alia*,

first and second driving gears fixed to said driving shaft, each having a tooth portion and a toothless portion, disposed to be meshed with respective tray gears, **each tooth portion of said first and second driving gears alternatively meshed with said respective tray gears while said driving shaft rotates** by said driving source.

Any of the above references does not disclose the Applicant's tooth portions of first and second driving gears alternatively meshed with the respective tray gears while the driving shaft rotates.

Claims 6 through 12 depend from the claim 5. Thus, claims 5 through 12 are allowable.

Claim 13 defines *inter alia*,

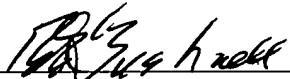
a driving gear unit fixed to said driving shaft, having **a third gear tooth portion disposed to be meshed with said first gear tooth portion and a fourth gear tooth portion disposed to be meshed with said second gear;** and
said third gear tooth portion and said fourth gear portion **alternatively meshed with the corresponding first gear tooth portion and second gear tooth portion while said driving shaft rotates** by said driving source.

All of the above references fail to show the Applicant's third and fourth gear tooth portions alternatively meshed with the corresponding first and second gear tooth portions while the driving shaft rotates. Claims 14 through 20 depend from the claim 13. Thus, claims 13 through 20 are allowable.

A fee of \$78.00 is incurred by the addition of one (1) independent claim in excess of 3. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Response. Should the check become lost, should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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